

9-27-1962

Dudley Morris to Parker, 27 September 1962

Dudley Morris

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1610
to Parker, Time Inc, Way Atlanta, Atlanta wants
re-run -
for Nation (requested)
Mississippi US ^{Purple} Justice Dept. (Act IV) 1962 SEP 27 PM 10 23

~~Late afternoon~~ shadows deepened on the campus of the

University of Mississippi this afternoon as a crowd of 2400 students

and bystanders from the surrounding hills waited for James Howard Meredith

to make his fourth attempt to register for classes. ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{More than} ~~A force~~

^{a dozen} ~~of 30~~ State highway patrol men ^{BLOCKED} ~~xxxxxx~~ each of the five gates of the campus,

^{and at} ~~xxxxxx~~ the main entrance Lt ^{Governor} ~~xxxxxx~~ Paul ~~xxxxxx~~ Johnson, and governor

Ross R. Barnett waited ~~xxxxxx~~ with cheering ~~rebel~~ ^{rebel} students

for the show down with Federal forces. ^{They} ~~They~~ never came. ~~xxxxxx~~

~~xxxxxx~~ Twenty miles outside of Oxford the force of ³⁰ ~~30~~ United

^(escorting MEREDITH) States Marshals got word of the reception in store for them and turned

around and drove back to Memphis.

It was an anti-climax to a day of false alarms that saw

Mississippi State highway patrolmen outfitted with ~~xxxxxx~~

gas masks, billy clubs, and steel helmets to ^{Fight off Justice Department} ~~repulse Meredith from campus.~~ ^{force}

By nine ^{A.M.} ~~o'clock~~ the troopers had posted themselves at each gate

of the campus as ^(bogus) a rumor filtered ~~through~~ through

Oxford ^(were approaching town and would use) the campus that Marshals would try to register him by ~~xxxxxx~~ force in the

^{force} ~~early afternoon~~ ^{it necessary} to register Meredith [Ⓢ] →

— more —

By Evening (2) In Washington
Tonight in Washington the Justice department announced that a force

of ²⁰⁰ ~~200~~ ^{U.S.} ~~several hundred~~ Marshals were on their way to ^{Memphis} ~~Memphis~~

^{Meredith is being quarantined}
~~where Meredith was quartered~~ at the Millington Naval Air Station.

But judging from the size and mood of the crowd ^{today} and the number of State police and sheriffs in Oxford (upward ⁵⁰⁰ ~~of 400~~ now) it seemed unlikely

they ^{will} ~~would~~ get through without a ^{scuffle} ~~fight~~. ~~If they made it at all.~~

This afternoon all along the road leading into this city of 6400

cars from a dozen Mississippi ^{counties} ~~counties~~ waited for the caravan

that never came. But these were not police. ^(They were) Farmers, mechanics, ^{field hands, and}

construction workers from the black Delta lands and from the ~~area~~

tough rural counties. They swapped stories and sipped beers and ^{whiskey} ~~whiskey~~

as they waited in the late afternoon sun. Most of them were brought into

Oxford by a justice department announcement, ^{broadcast over} ~~read by N.A.A.C.P.~~

^{the radio, that said}
~~attorney Jack Greenburg that~~ Meredith would be at Ole Miss at ~~four~~

^{another}
four o'clock and make a ~~final~~ attempt to register.

After a day's waiting, word spread through the student body ^{like the plague}

^{a crowd had gathered}
In minutes ~~and the crowd started to gather~~ at the main gate, anticipating

the Justice Department would try to enter by ^{they had yesterday} the same route as ~~before~~. And

^{with the students}
mixed in ^{took off from} were a large number of people from Oxford who ~~came off of~~ work

to see the action. Mothers ^{in the crowd} held young babies ^{in their arms} as the burly Mississippi troopers

~~advanced~~

3 Paced back and forth ^{ACROSS} ~~across~~ the street slapping their billy sticks

against their ^{thighs} ~~legs~~. ^{reporters} ~~newsmen~~ mingled with the ^{REDNECKS} ~~crowd~~. A police radio

blared announcements like "two cars with six men in them each with

Tennessee tags ~~moving~~ heading towards Oxford at a high rate of

speed. " This ^{sent} ~~was~~ those near enough to hear into an excited buzz.

AND — Though everyone knew Meredith was on his way, ^{nobody} ~~none~~ ~~nobody~~ was

sure how he was coming ^{so} ~~to~~ ~~in~~ when a southern airway's DC-3 droned

overhead all necks were craned to see what kind of plane it was.

Yesterday Meredith flew into Oxford in a two-tone green cessna and

all afternoon newsmen kept an extra eye cocked skyward.

Then a police radio ^{blurped} ~~blurred~~, "they are in route," and another

shout went up. Dick Wilson, president of the Mississippi student body

walked through the shouting crowd ^{asking students} and asked them to go back ~~into~~

~~the campus~~ the campus. Few did. ^{a rumor rippled through the crowd that} ~~Then the latest rumor rippled among newsmen.~~

A mixed force of Marshals and military police from Fort Bragg ^{were} ~~were~~ being

flown to Oxford to assure Meredith's safety. And all along University

Avenue students, reporters, police, townspeople, and troublemakers

muttered to ^{one} ~~one~~ another. There was the same holiday spirit ~~that~~ in the

air that gripped the campus when Meredith tried to register for the first time

last week. But, this time something was added. A smattering of toughs,

overalled workers, straggly ~~farm~~ ^{farm} women who shouted encouragement to

the police. The ugly note was so clear that Lt. Governor Paul Johnson drove ^{by}

(4)

asking everybody to please break it up. " There is not a thing you are going to see in any case except him being turned back, " he told cheering students, " so please go back to the ~~campus~~ campus."

And he pleaded to them to break up because, " There are a lot of

~~strange~~ ^{strange} people here from the countryside and there's only one

thing they can do: cause trouble. I beg of you, get back

out of the line of fire." And a few people drifted off from the edges of the ~~crowd~~ ^{crowd} and a few more drove up. In spite of these pleas

~~by the~~ the hundreds of ~~the~~ police made no serious effort to disperse

~~bystanders~~ ^{bystanders} the masses, allowing them to wander freely across university avenue to talk and gossip as they pleased.

At five o'clock the governor ~~emerged~~ ^{emerged} from the alumni house

to take his place on the ~~battle~~ ^{battle} line. A ~~great~~ tumultuous cheer went up

from waiting students. " I'm glad to see you here today, " he told them,

" the people of Mississippi have a wonderful reputation for keeping the peace

and law and order. Let's let the world ~~know~~ know we can still control

our citizens so that we can have the ~~admiration~~ ^{admiration} and confidence of

all the people in the world. "

Then he climbed into his blue cadillac, and slipped a black homburg

~~at~~ at a jaunty angle on his head. The crowd of students ran along side of

his car breaking through

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his car. And up and down university ^{avenue} ~~avenue~~ a thousand voices shouted " we Want

Ross! We want Ross! " ^{roaring} ~~And they roared~~ into their ~~xxxxxx~~ ~~fx~~ football

locomotive, " Hotty Toddy! ~~Gosh almighty~~ who in the hell are we?/

hey!// flim flam, bim ,bam,// ole miss by damn! " ~~and~~ The caddy slid up to

the curb with two burly patrol men in the front seat. Barnett waved out

of the window with a thin smile. ^{10 minutes later} Then/he got out of the car and ~~appeared~~

started ~~xxxx~~ ^{to} walked back ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ towards the campus and waited

^{drawn up across the road} at ^a ~~the~~ second line of patrolmen ^{then walked} ~~for a while~~ his presence did

wonders for the crowd. It gave it spirit , and set things on edge.

~~One~~ A minister ~~in the crowd~~ quipped, " this ^{crowd's} ~~xxxxxx~~ going to start ~~Thexstndentxwaxxxxxx~~

a riot pretty soon if it doesn't get a riot." ~~xxx~~

It was a good discription of the afternoon's fun.

There were enough beligerent people , mainly outsiders who were ^{just} ~~just~~ itching

for trouble so that the sight of marshals would have surely stirred them up

to a fighting mood. Fortunately , at about six o'clock word crackled

^{transistor} over the dozens of ~~transistor~~ radios in the crowd that Meredith

had turned back. A great yell of delight went up. It was like steam

coming out of a pressure cooker. In minutes , great chunks of

students broke away from the onlookers and drifted back towards the

campus. It was ^{as one lay} nearly dark. Quipped ~~one~~ reporter, " Well if he had come

~~this late he would have had to register~~

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anyway."

he would have had to register for night school ~~and he had to register for night school~~

This evening troopers started pulling out of Oxford in mass.

And, by seven o'clock not a single car remained at the national

guard armory. ~~They were all headed for Jackson. Barnett left for home two hours ago (six~~ According to

reports they are headed for Jackson. Barnett left for home two hours ago (six

o'clock) ~~and he had to register for night school~~.

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This morning, at

the main campus gate on University Avenue

At University Avenue, the main entrance to campus self-conscious

troopers joked with reporters as they directed traffic in their battle

garb. ~~They~~ Some wore their steel pots with the chin straps cinched

up tight. Others wore blue and ^{Brown} ~~brown~~ helmet liners or sat bareheaded

on the sidewalk chatting, smoking cigars, and chewing gum. They

were reluctant dragons, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ embarrassed by the ^{fuss} ~~fuss~~

but ~~xxx~~ resigned to what ever the worst might be. "I hope nothing

happens," said one, "I hope nothing happens period ^{because} ~~because~~ I'm

half shook anyway. "In prearation the police had stripped off their

metal name tags to prevent Justice Department officals ^(repeating yesterday's play and of recording) ~~from readings~~

~~troopers~~ ^{troopers} and ~~to adding them~~ ^{and to adding them} contempt ~~off their names~~ ^{and adding them} to the contempt of court citation

that now hangs over more than a dozen state officals. ^{Along} ~~Along~~ the sidewalks

~~were~~ ^{were neatly} 10 white ~~px~~ 1962 pontiac patrol cars neatly parked against the curb.

~~Ri~~ Further down the road into the University, Deputy ~~Sherris~~ Sheriffs lounged ~~agx~~ against the railing of the Hilgard bridge than spans the

I.C.C. railraod ^{freight} ~~freight~~ line ^(running) ~~that runs~~ from Chicago to New Orleans.

^{200 yards further} And ~~a littel further~~ on was the main concentration of police. Nearly 100

^(patrolmen) ~~patrol~~ and sheriffs cars clogged both sides of the road. On the ~~burnt~~ thick

grass lawns ^{dozens of} ~~of~~ Ole Miss students lounged with their girls, ~~claked~~ ^{gabbled} with ~~police~~ ^{police}

~~the sherris~~ ~~sherris~~

8-

Like the ^{highway} ~~highway~~ patrol, the sheriffs were unarmed ~~except~~ ^{except} for billy clubs. They carried no gas ~~masks~~ ^{masks} but ~~around their necks~~ ^{SSSS} had tied thin strips of white muslin around their arms for identification.

And ~~park~~ ^{German shepherd} parked on a side street were two carloads of barking, snapping, ~~german shepherd~~ police dogs. Children from the catholic grade school on the edge of campus poked their heads out of windows at the bizarre scene, ~~giggly~~ goggling the ubiquitous ~~television~~ television camera men and reporters who lounged in the sun waiting for Meredith to appear.

Governor ~~Ross~~ ^{arrived} Barnett ~~arrived~~ early in the morning in his powder blue 1961 ^{couple} cadillac ~~four door~~ and went straight ^{to the} ~~into~~ to alumni house to rest. And as newsmen waited rumors spread. Barnett was to hold a press conference at one. By one thirty the ^{rumors} mongers had moved it up to "late in the afternoon." It the cafeteria of the building Citizens

council chief Bill Simmons chatted over coffee with reporters making the smallest of ~~talk~~ ^{courtesy} table ~~talk~~ talk about the governors ~~manners~~ ^{courtesy} manners. ~~his remarks about the governor's manners yesterday~~

"When they pulled him out of the elevator in Jackson the other day ,"

he smiled, "after Ross had refused Meredith, why he looked up at

the man and said, 'Why I certainly do thank you sir.' With anyone else

it would have sounded phony but its ^{strictly} ~~strictly~~ S.O.P. for the governor."

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Then , in the middle of his conversation reporters started dashing towards the door. One after another, ~~xxx~~ one, ^{Two} ~~two~~, three, four, highway patrol cars shot out of their parking spaces. Reporters raced down university ^{campus} Avenue towards the ~~xxxxxx~~ gate. "Is he coming? Is he coming?" they screamed to each other. And long lines of cars race after the police cars carrying cameramen and newsmen dangling over the sides, grinding away footage of the chase. It was short. Police, dogs, reporters, students, and townspeople came to a screeching halt at the Oxford Armory. There the police filed inside. An hour later they were back at their battle stations, steel pots in place waiting for ~~xxxxxx~~ Meredith to come.

This evening ^{most} ~~most~~ of the troopers have suddenly ~~14~~ pulled out of town and have been reported heading down the ~~road~~ ^{Jackson} to ~~Oxford~~. Barnett is on his way there. Tomorrow, if all goes ^{well} ~~well~~, the ² ~~F~~ederal Court will issue a bench warrant for his arrest. And when the marshals come to get him, King Ross no doubt, will be waiting in his Mansion ^{done} ~~or~~ with the ~~dome~~ of the capitol in the background. But, what everybody wonders is whether he will surrender without a fight.

more to come. ^{done} dudley morris ole miss

motel